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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/736,187	12/15/2003	Glen Roger Caron	600.1298	4371

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EXAMINER

KOHNER, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3653

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/736,187		CARON ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Matthew J. Kohner		3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/15/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,369,587 to David. (*hereinafter* “David”).

David discloses a sheet material conveyor comprising:

- a pocket conveyor (17) with at least one moving pocket (see Fig. 3) for collecting printed sheet material (col. 1, line 10), the pocket conveyor having a release area (A; col. 17-18) for releasing the printing sheet material in the pocket; and

- an air supply device (21) providing air to the pocket at the release area.

In regard to claim 9, see Fig. 4.

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,293,698 to Peterson. (*hereinafter* “Peterson”).

Peterson discloses a sheet material conveyor comprising:

- a pocket conveyor (4,5) with at least one moving pocket (15) for collecting printed sheet material (6), the pocket conveyor having a release area (col. 5, lines 25 -30) for releasing the printing sheet material in the pocket; and

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- an air supply device (Abstract, line 18) providing air to the pocket at the release area.

In regard to claim 9, see Fig. 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over David in view of US Patent No. 5,979,890 to Fujimaki et al. (*hereinafter* "Fujimaki").

David does not disclose that the air blower is adjustable to vary the pressure. However, Fujimaki disclose varying the pressure of an air blower. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify David to include variable air pressure, as taught by Fujimaki, because varying the air pressure is important with regard to the type of sheet being transported (see Fujimaki col. 2, lines 31-35).

Claims 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson in view of Fujimaki.

Peterson does not disclose that the air blower is adjustable to vary the pressure. However, Fujimaki disclose varying the pressure of an air blower. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Peterson to

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include variable air pressure, as taught by Fujimaki, because varying the air pressure is important with regard to the type of sheet being transported (see Fujimaki col. 2, lines 31-35).

Claims 1-6 and 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,186,443 to Manley et al. (*hereinafter* "Manley") in view of US Patent No. 4,056,264 to Dhooge et al. (*hereinafter* "Dhooge").

In regard to claims 1, 12 and 13, Manley discloses a sheet material conveyor comprising:

- a pocket conveyor (3) with at least one moving pocket (56) for collecting printed sheet material (60), the pocket conveyor having a release area (see Fig. 10) for releasing the printing sheet material in the pocket (Further, in regard to claims 12 and 13, Manley discloses a collect wall and a releasable foot [see Fig. 10]),

Manley does not disclose an air supply device providing air to the pocket at the release area. However, Dhooge discloses an air supply device (31) providing air to a pocket (10). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Manley to include an air supply device providing air to the pocket, as taught by Dhooge, because Dhooge's air blower prevents contact between the sheet and the wall (col. 5, lines 44).

Examiner notes in the art of "bottom-drop" pocket conveyors, there is long known problem of friction between the paper and pocket wall adversely affecting the gravity drop. Dhooge's air blower prevents this friction and therefore would be considered advantageous.

In regard to claim 2, see Fig. 10.

In regard to claims 3 and 6, Manley Fig. 10 and Dhooge #31.

In regard to claims 4 and 5, see Dhooge col. 6, lines 26-42, see also Fig. 3.

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In regard to claim 14, Manley discloses different inserts (col. 1, line 50).

In regard to claims 9-11 and 15, see Manley Fig. 4, which discloses a plurality of pockets (56) and a gripper conveying unit (98) under the pockets.

Claims 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manley in view Dhooge and further in view of Fujimaki.

Manley does not disclose that the air blower is adjustable to vary the pressure. However, Fujimaki disclose varying the pressure of an air blower. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Manley to include variable air pressure, as taught by Fujimaki, because varying the air pressure is important with regard to the type of sheet being transported (see Fujimaki col. 2, lines 31-35).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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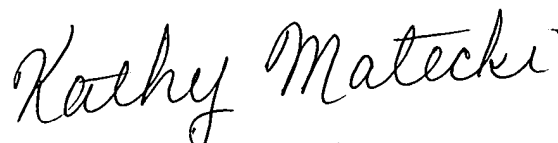
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Kohner whose telephone number is 571-272-6939. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on 571-272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Matthew J. Kohner
Examiner
Art Unit 3653

mjk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Matecki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**